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Bridging the Gap II (BtG-II)

Learning Spaces (LS) 2018-2019

Webinar N.6 - Legislating for Disability Rights

February 1st, 2019 at 2:30 pm CET Brussels Time (English session)

1 – TOPIC

Legislating for Disability Rights. This webinar will explore methods and approaches to harmonise national/local legislations with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

2 – TARGET AUDIENCES

The webinar cycle is addressed to the three target groups of the project, namely:

1. Development practitioners (for instance: agencies, EU delegations)
2. National institutions of the partner countries of Bridging the Gap II (Burkina Faso, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Paraguay and Sudan)
3. National organisations of persons with disabilities

3 – SESSION'S CONTENT, SEQUENCE AND DURATION

In many countries around the world, especially in countries in development and in transition, legal and policy frameworks offer inadequate protection or defectively address the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities in society and development. In many cases laws preserve discrimination against persons with disabilities.

To make the difference, State parties, as duty-bearers, have to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) which sets out the legal obligations to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities¹.

Article 4 of the CRPD², General Obligations, requires State parties to harmonise their domestic law with the Convention. Article 4(1)a obliges State parties to adopt all appropriate legislation, administrative and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognised in the CRPD. For example, in the

¹ United Nations: [Toolkit on Disability for Africa. Legislating for Disability rights.](#)

² <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/ConventionRightsPersonsWithDisabilities.aspx#4>



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general provisions contained under Article 4, the Convention provides instructions for legislative measures that State parties should apply in relation to specific rights.

In addition, State parties are mandated under art. 4(1)b to take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to modify or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs and practices that constitute discrimination against persons with disabilities. The Convention establishes tasks to make a clear institutional framework able to implement and monitoring the national laws. For example, the CRPD asks to State parties to designate dedicated contact points within government or dedicated offices to link with all levels of government across sectors.

The involvement of the civil society and, above all, of persons with disabilities in decision-making processes is essential. Too often their role has been ignored. The CRPD requires to State parties to ensure that persons with disabilities and their representative organisations take part in law reform and policy development. Always the article 4(3) requires to take active steps to guarantee their full and effective participation. The importance of including persons with disabilities in the law-making process is also mentioned in Article 3³, which establishes “full and effective participation and inclusion in society” as a general principle of the CRPD. Furthermore, Article 29 recognises the right of persons with disabilities to participate in political and public life.

To ensure that the revised laws comply with the Convention, Governments might benefit from having a newly established or already existing body, such as an equality commission, a national human rights institution or a disability commission, conduct a comprehensive review of legislation.

This process should include⁴:

- Involving experts from government institutions and ministries, civil society, and persons with disabilities and their representative organisations;
- Establishing and monitoring time frames for the completion of the review;
- Establishing a parliamentary committee to oversee the process and systematically scrutinise any legislative proposal to ensure consistency with the Constitution.

³ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/ConventionRightsPersonsWithDisabilities.aspx#3>

⁴ [Unite Nations – Disability. Department of Economic and Social affairs: Handbook for Parliamentarians on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#)



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The **sixth session of the BtG-II webinar-based training cycle** will provide guidance on how to bring national legislation in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Sequence of the session

- **Introduction to the session** 5/10 mins
- **Presentation** 40/50 mins
- **Questions & answers** 30/40 mins – Q&A plenary session – Debate

The webinar will last approximately 1.5 hours.

4 – SUGGESTED READINGS AND LEARNING MATERIAL FOR PARTICIPANTS

- [UN - International Norms and Standards Relating to Disability.](#)
- United Nations – Disability. Department of Economic and Social affairs: [Handbook for Parliamentarians on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.](#)
- Centre for Disability Law and Policy: [European yearbook of disability law.](#)
- ANED - The Academic Network of European Disability Experts: [Annotated review of European Union law and policy with reference to disability.](#)
- United Nations Human Rights: [Monitoring the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Guidance for human rights monitors.](#)
- United Nations: [Toolkit on Disability for Africa. Legislating for Disability rights.](#) (French version [click here](#))

5 - LEARNING OBJECTIVES (SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES)

The sixth webinar proposes a general overview of legislation and policies consistent with international human rights standards that need to be adopted in order to create the necessary environment in which it is possible to introduce and sustain disability rights. In particular, the **learning objectives of this session are:**

- How to harmonise national legislation with the Convention;
- How to identify potential gaps in legislative systems in relation to the CRPD;
- How to ensure the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in law reform.

The webinar training-cycle issues a Certificate of Attendance only those whom will attend at least 75% of the webinars (i.e. 9 out of 12 webinars) and respond to the satisfaction survey.



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6 – LANGUAGES AND SCHEDULES

The webinar will be conducted in English, French and Spanish in separate sessions:

Language	Date and time	Speaker	Moderator
English	February 1 2019 at 2:30 pm CET (Brussels Time)	Paula Hearn, Independent Consultant	Alessia Rogai, BtG-II Knowledge Management and Learning Coordinator
Spanish	February 1 2019 at 4:00pm CET (Brussels Time)	Alberto Vásquez, Research Coordinator, Office of the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities	Carmen Serrano, BtG-II Communication Officer
French	January 30 2019 at 11:30 am CET (Brussels time)	Anne-Sophie Trujillo, Independent Consultant	Federico Martire, BtG-II Director

7 – REGISTRATION

To register to the English session please [click here](#).

Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email with the link to join the session at the specified time and date. Registration is limited to 100 participants on a first come, first served basis.

Participants can use the landline call to join the session:

United Kingdom: **+44 330 221 9922**

Audio PIN: Shown after joining the webinar

Webinar ID: 895-026-531

You can also join the session through the smartphone or table free application. You can download the application by [clicking here](#).

8 – ACCESSIBILITY

The webinar is live captioned. The link to access the captioning page will be shared together in two reminder emails (respectively 1 day and 1 hour before the session) and in the chat box at the beginning of the webinar.





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To improve the visual accessibility of the online training platform GoToWebinar, we recommend to download the smartphone or tablet free application by [clicking here](#).

9 - WHAT IS BRIDGING THE GAP?

Bridging the Gap II (BtG-II) is an initiative funded by the European Union coordinated by the International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies (FIIAPP) in partnership with the Spanish Agency for Development Cooperation (AECID), the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (IADC), the European Disability Forum (EDF) and the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC). It aims to contribute to the socio-economic inclusion, equality and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities through more inclusive and accountable institutions and policies.

Bridging the Gap is a targeted thematic response to the requirement to make development cooperation accessible to and inclusive of persons with disabilities, which is an obligation for the European Union (EU) and Member States as parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and which can have a significant impact in improving the social inclusion and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities.

BtG-II supports the mainstreaming of disability in international cooperation and the efforts of five partner countries (Burkina Faso, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Paraguay and Sudan) in planning and implementing inclusive public policies and services.

This project is funded by the EU under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), Thematic Programme “Global Public Goods and Challenges” and it is in line with the European Consensus on Development “Our World, Our Dignity, Our Future”.

Discover more about BtG-II:

[BtG-II Web site](#)

[BtG-II Facebook page](#)

[BtG-II Twitter page](#)

[BtG-II YouTube channel](#)

[BtG-II on Flickr](#)

All the recordings of the previous webinars are available on our [YouTube Channel](#). You can find them in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#).





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For further information, please contact:

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